

Demolition Unit. Ambassador Mansour holds a masters degree from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and is a Ph.D. candidate in Haifa University's Middle Eastern History department.

In addition to his position as a diplomat, Ambassador Mansour is an accomplished author. He has published three books of poetry, as well as a number of short stories and poems published in literary articles and poetry reviews. Ambassador Mansour has received the Ha'aretz Annual Short Story Award, as well as the Haifa University Miller Award.

I join Sewanee, The University of the South, in thanking Ambassador Mansour for taking part in this important lecture series intended to foster a greater understanding of the Middle East.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. RUTH  
JOHNSON

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Dr. Ruth Johnson, president of the Clark County School District Board of School Trustees, and congratulate her on behalf of the Clark County School District for receiving the Distinguished Support of Music Education Award.

The VH1 Save the Music Foundation has selected the Clark County School District Board of School Trustees as this year's recipient of their Third Annual School Board Award for Distinguished Support of Music Education. Clark County is an exemplary school district to which others can look as model for music education. The Board of School Trustees, presided over by Ruth Johnson, is the only school board in the United States to receive this award by VH1 Save the Music Foundation. The Clark County School District Board of Trustees are dedicated to providing a certified, qualified music teacher for each school, as well as funding after school music programs, text books, and music supplies.

For the past 10 years, Ruth has served on the Clark County School District Board of Trustees, where her leadership has greatly contributed to the development of music education in the Clark County School District. Furthermore, Ruth Johnson has committed the efforts of the Board of School Trustees to go above and beyond to achieve excellence in music education.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor my friend Dr. Johnson and the Clark County School District Board of Trustees. Her dedication in enriching the educational experience of the Clark County students is commendable and I congratulate her for being honored by VH1 Save the Music. I wish Dr. Johnson continued success as she serves as president of the Clark County School Board of Trustees.

HONORING THE TUSKEGEE  
AIRMEN

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2007*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I wish to honor the Tuskegee Airmen, the group of African-American pilots who flew with distinction during World War II as the 332d Fighter Group of the U.S. Army Air Corps. Additionally, I am compelled to honor an excellent servant to our Nation, Mr. Matthew W. Plummer, an original Tuskegee Airman who served as an instructor for U.S. Army cadets training at Tuskegee. His tireless work, like that of so many other Tuskegee Airmen, helped to make our country a more perfect union.

Prior to the Tuskegee Airmen, not a single U.S. military pilot had been African-American. However, due to the work of the African-American civil rights community, the United States Congress in 1941 forced the Army Air Corps to form an all-black combat unit. In June 1941, the Tuskegee program officially began with formation of the 99th Fighter Squadron at the Tuskegee Institute, a highly regarded university founded by Booker T. Washington in Tuskegee, Alabama. The Airmen were placed under the command of Capt. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., one of the few African-American West Point graduates.

During World War II the Tuskegee Airmen fought with amazing gallantry and uncompromising determination. They flew escort for heavy bombers, established an impressive combat record, and often entered combat against greater numbers of superior German aircraft, while emerging victorious. These brave fighters fought for their country at a time when their country would not fight for them. They were forced to suffer from the daily disease of racism even while in uniform. However, the Tuskegee Airmen chose to fight for their country as hard as they fought against racism, and they would eventually prove that they were the greatest of the "Greatest Generation".

By the end of the war, the Tuskegee Airmen were credited with shooting down 109 Luftwaffe aircraft and destroying numerous fuel dumps, trucks and trains. The squadrons of the 332nd Fighter Group flew more than 15,000 sorties on 1,500 missions. The unit was awarded a Distinguished Unit Citation for a mission flown on March 24, 1945, escorting B-17s to bomb the Daimler-Benz tank factory at Berlin, Germany, an action in which its pilots destroyed three Me-262 jets in aerial combat.

The Tuskegee Airmen were awarded several Silver Stars, 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 14 Bronze Stars, and 744 Air Medals. In all, 992 pilots were trained in Tuskegee from 1940 to 1946. Of the airmen 445 deployed overseas and 150 Airmen lost their lives in training or combat.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to honor the Tuskegee Airmen for their service to our country, their work to end segregation in the U.S. military, and their courage which has empowered millions of African-Americans and other minorities across our great country.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION  
CELEBRATING THE 500TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF THE FIRST USE OF  
THE NAME "AMERICA"

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2007*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues Representatives ALCEE HASTINGS, JOE WILSON, and HOYER, to honor the upcoming 500th anniversary of the coining of the name "America." On April 25, 1507 cartographer Martin Waldseemüller of the research group Gymnasium Vosagense in Saint-Die', France changed the way Europeans perceived the world by first depicting the Western Hemisphere in his 1507 world map. Waldseemüller honored Amerigo Vespucci by labeling this land with the Italian navigator's Christian name. Although explorers like Christopher Columbus already discovered this land, Amerigo Vespucci was the first to realize that it was not India but an entirely new continent. I invite my fellow Americans to join me and the House of Representatives in celebrating the historic 500th anniversary of the coining of this great name. Lastly, I also want to welcome Representative HASTINGS as a new member of the Americans Abroad Caucus, which I along with Representative WILSON have co-founded.

2007 EXCELLENCE AWARDS FOR  
EMPLOYEES OF THE CHIEF AD-  
MINISTRATIVE OFFICER

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2007*

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I'm pleased to announce the recipients of the 2007 Achieving Excellence Awards (ACE) for the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

This year's award winners are Darrell Norman, Liz McBride-Chambers, Scott Hood, Wanda Jackson, Cari Knowles, Traci Beaubian, Patricia Nuzzo, Jim Caskey, Dave Woodburn and Christine Stewart. Their ACE Awards acknowledge the exceptional efforts made by these employees to provide quality service to the Members, Committees and offices of the House of Representatives.

The recipients of the 2007 CAO ACE Awards represent many areas of the CAO organization, perform a variety of jobs, and provide a wide range of services to the House community. Whether working directly with Members or staff, supporting CAO internal operations, or ensuring the technical infrastructure is operational, each serves as an exemplary role model for the entire CAO community. Collectively and individually they deliver solutions that fulfill our goal of providing a quality customer experience.

Employees nominated for an award must be in a full-time status and have a current excellent performance rating. Nominations for the awards are submitted by managers or supervisors within the organization. The nominations are then reviewed by a committee comprised of the CAO's leadership team with final award recommendations submitted to the Chief Administrative Officer for approval.